REMARKS

Claims 1-19 and 24-32 are in the application of which claims 1, 15 and 24 are in independent form. Claims 5-8, 11, 19, 28, 29, and 32 are objected to. Claims 1 and 15 are amended to clarify their meanings. Claims 20-23 are canceled without prejudice to reintroduce them.

Claims 1-4, 9, 10, 12-18, 20-27, 30, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rostoker et al. (U.S. Patent 5,563,928). For the following reasons, these rejections are traversed.

Claim 1 recites:

"transmitters to provide transmit signals to chip interfaces, wherein the chip interfaces are to make the transmit signals available external to the chip;

voltage control circuitry to control voltages of the transmit signals;

receivers to receive external signals from another chip; and

evaluation circuitry to determine whether the transmit signals were usable by the other chip based on an evaluation of at least one of the received external signals and to provide a usability indicating signal to the voltage control circuitry indicative of whether the transmit signals were usable by the other chip." (Emphasis added.)

As is emphasized, in claim 1, it is the voltage of the transmit signals that is controlled and the transmit signals are to be made available external to the chip. The Office action, p. 2, states regarding Rostoker et al.: "The Examiner notes that the frequency is a function of the voltage and is used to control the proper interface timing), ..." While this may be true in Rostoker et al., Rostoker et al. describes a system to control the frequency of a signal, not the voltage of the transmitted signal.

It is significant that Rostoker et al. consistently mentions temperature and voltage as controlling the frequency of the signal. For example, the Abstract, lines 3-5, states: "The natural frequency of the die changes for different operating temperatures and voltages." (Emphasis added.) Clearly, it is the internal die temperature and voltage that is being referred to, not the temperature and voltage of external transmitted signals. The frequency is a function of internal die temperature and voltage, not a function of the temperature and voltage of the external transmitted signal.

Other examples are as follows. Col. 2, lines 10 - 13 states: "In addition, the operating parameters (such as voltage and temperature) of the faster integrated circuits may be adjusted to reduce power consumption and/or operating temperature." (Emphasis added.) Claim 1 recites: "A

method for determining the reliable operating speed of a semiconductor integrated circuit die when operated at a desired voltage and temperature." (Emphasis added.)

Rostoker et al., col. 12, lines 56-63 (cited in the Office action, p. 3), states:

"When a system requires a certain operating speed, the voltage and/or temperature parameters of the integrated circuits may be adjusted so as to realize a minimum appropriate relaxation oscillator frequency for each integrated circuit. Conversely, when the integrated circuits of the system are much faster than necessary for desired operation, the voltage to the integrated circuits may be lowered to reduced power consumption of the system." (Emphasis added.)

Thus, it is internal voltage and temperature that produces a desired frequency of the signal. There is no indication in Rostoker et al., that voltages of external transmit signals are controlled.

Accordingly, the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

The rejections of dependent claims 2-4, 9, 10, and 12-14 should be withdrawn for at least the same reason as claim 1.

Independent claims 15 and 24 include limitations similar to those of claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons. Likewise, dependent claims 16-18, 25-27, 30, and 31 are allowable for at least the same reasons.

It is noted that there are additional reasons why the claims allowable over Rostoker et al.

A notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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